CD 372

Form No. 1848 (Revised)
Memorandum Report
(3-1-40)

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

12-2 & 12-29-63
ORIGIN Chief's Office OFFICE Miami, Florida FILE NO. CO-2-34,151
CO-2-34,030

TYPE OF CASE	STATUS	TITLE OR CAPTION
Protective Research	Closed	Conversation Hotel Employee, Miami, Florida
INVESTIGATION MADE AT: Miami, Fla.	PERIOD COVERED: 12-11-63/1-8-64	
INVESTIGATION MADE BY: SA Ernest I. Aragon		

DETAILS

SYNOPSIS

Investigation of the information furnished by the Department of the Army, San Jose, Costa Rica, has identified Hortencia Piard de Diaz as the person allegedly making the remark that the President would be assassinated. Mrs. Hortencia de Diaz has been personally interviewed and she has denied the allegation.

(A) INTRODUCTION:

This investigation originated upon referral of a communication received from the Department of the Army, San Jose, Costa Rica dated November 1963 which relates to information furnished by Rodolfo Robles indicating that his business partner, Joaquin Modesto Elizondo and his wife, while on a recent visit to Miami, learned from a Cuban female hotel employee that President Kennedy might soon be killed.

According to the Army communication, Mr. and Mrs. Elizondo stayed at the Hotel Belfort while in Miami, Fla. According to Rodolfo Robles, Mrs. Elizondo while in the Belfort Hotel, Miami, Fla. engaged in a conversation with a cleaning woman whom Mrs. Elizondo described as Cuban, short and fat, approximately 40 to 45; brown/red hair, dressed in white uniform.

During the conversation, the visit of President Kennedy to Costa Rica was allegedly discussed and in the same conversation the unknown Cuban woman is alleged to have made the remark that "What a pity that soon they will kill President Kennedy".

DISTRIBUTION	COPIES	REPORT MADE BY	DATE
Chief Miami	Orig. 1cc	SPECIAL AGENT Ernest I. Aragon	8 1 1-15-64
		APPROVED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE John A. Marshall	DATE 1-15-64

ETA:RA

(B) GENERAL INQUIRIES:

On December 11, 1963, at the Hotel Belfort, 252 N.E. Second St., Miami, Florida, the records reveal that on September 1, 1963, Joaquin Elizondo Solano and Belen Campos Candano Elizondo registered at the hotel and remained there until September 8, 1963.

Through the hotel manager, it was determined that the maid fitting the description furnished by Mrs. Elizondo was one Hortencia Diaz, who was employed on a part-time basis. During this inquiry, it was also learned that about two weeks previously, representatives of the FBI had also made inquiry for a person fitting the same description.

On the same date I interviewed SA George Davis, FBI, Miami, Fla., and he advised that they had previously interviewed Hortencia Diaz incident to the same information received from the Department of the Army at San Jose, Costa Rica. According to the FBI, Mrs. Diaz identified herself as Hortencia Piard de Diaz. No further description was obtained. SA Davis said that during questioning, Mrs. Diaz denied making any statements which indicated that the President would be assassinated and denied having any prior knowledge that the President would be assassinated.

On the same date the records of the I&NS, Miami, Fla. were checked for Hortencia Piard de Diaz and no file under that name could be located.

On January 8, 1964, Mrs. Diaz was personally interviewed at her residence, 921 N.W. 20th Ave., Miami, Fla. Mrs. Diaz when learning the reason for the interview stated that she had already been interviewed regarding the same matter. She immediately became extremely emotional and she had to be assisted to a chair in order to calm her emotions. She stated that she has interpreted the allegation to indicate that she herself is accused of making the statement that the President will be killed and that since the events of the President's assassination the matter has affected her to such an extent that she has required medical attention and hospitalization.

Mrs. Diaz said that she recalls numerous occasions when she conversed with guests at the Belfort Hotel and also remembers Mrs. Elizondo but that she at no time remarked to Mrs. Elizondo that the President will be killed and again denied that she had any prior knowledge that the President would be assassinated. She emphasized that had she known of the information she is alleged to have disclosed, she certainly would have notified the proper authorities. She stated that she could not understand why Mrs. Elizondo would indicate that such a statement had been made by her.

Mrs. Diaz stated that both she and her husband greatly admired President Kennedy and were both loyal and faithful adherents to the democratic principles of this country.

All of the above information was secured from Mrs. Diaz during a very emotional state.

She requested and pleaded that she not be confronted with this matter again as she feared it might cause future hospitalization and big medical expenses, which she and her husband would be unable to meet at this time.

Due to her highly emotional state, Mrs. Diaz was unable to furnish the investigating agent with her personal description or her I&NS number. She did indicate that her full name is Hortencia Piard Acosta Diaz.

Re-check of the I&NS files under the above name also failed to disclose any file for the subject.

(J) CONCLUSION:

Inasmuch as Hortencia Piard Acosta Diaz has denied the allegation, and there being no other supporting evidence to indicate that she in fact had prior knowledge of the Dallas events, this matter is being closed without further investigation.